Subject: The use of stamps encased in metal for money, as patented by businessman J. Gault in 1862

Vilnai, Edgar
[Vienna, Austria]

1923 - 1925

March 17th, 1923

Mr. Edgar Vilnai
Sebastiansplatz 7
Wien III, Austria

Dear Sir:

Rudoplh Kohler showed me the other day a letter which you had written him concerning the use of stamps encased in metal to be used for money. These pieces were extensively used in the United States during the Civil War and were patented by J. Gault on August 12, 1862. J. Gault made a great many of these for a large number of concerns in July and August, 1862, when the Government put a stop to any further making of them. The modern ones used in Germany, Italy and France apparently are of the same idea, except for the use of celluloid in place of mica on the front. In 1862, celluloid was not in use.

I am sending you, under separate cover, one of our catalogues showing all the different concerns for which J. Gault made these. You will find this list on pages 125 to 128.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E

July 16, 1925

Edgar Vilnai
Sebastiansplatz 7
Wien III
Austria

Dear Sir:

Your favor of June thirtieth is at hand together with the collection of encased postage stamps, for which we beg to thank you. At the present time there is very little demand for these encased postage stamps in this country. The same with war medals. I am handing you a list of the various dealers in this country to whom you might write. We ourselves are not in a position to sell collections, being a Museum. We are, however, interested in war medals and decorations and if you have any list of these available we will be pleased to see it.

Very truly yours

HW C

Curator

EDGAR VILNAI
WIEN, III., SEBASTIANPLATZ 7
BÜRO: III., VEITHGASSE 11
(RENNWEG 7)

ÖSTERR. POSTSCHECKKONTO NR. 185.883
TELEGRAMM-ADRESSE: VILNAI WIEN 40
TELEPHON: 77-3-45 und 2674/8.

WIEN, August, 3d, 1925

Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
New York, U.S.A.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of 16th ult.and beg to thank you for addresses given.

I note that you are interested in medals and decorations and beg to send you by separate cover a few items for inspection. Invoice enclosed,amounting to a total of $1.00, which amount please remit by U.S.currency.

Please inform me,if you are interested in paper money also. I have banknotes of Montenegro,Russia,Ukrainia, Italy,Serbia etc.,different denominations (1000 rubles Kerenskij and Duma issues,100 perper,griwny etc.),also the banknotes of the Riga revolutionary comittee,etc. These are about 60 varieties,which I offer at an average price of 6c per piece only.

I beg to enclose a photo of a very interesting item,the Austrian war auxiliary cross. This decoration was intended ,but has not been awarded,owing to the Kaiser's death,so the four pieces I have are unique. These have been submitted to the monarch by the War Minstry (the seal on which the medal in centre is fixed,bears inscription "K.u.K. Reichskriegsministerium) ,and I have also a piece not yet finished (left corner). The medal was intended in two classes, and there have been made the pieces with German and Latin inscription in both clsses. This lot is of utmost interest. I offer this at a price of $20.00 only.

Also,I have a pattern piece of the Austrian Signum Laudis,which has been not accepted by the Ministry,as it was made as a cross,while this medal was to be made in form of a coin. If interested,I could send this pattern for inspection.

The new Austrian Schilling coins (silver) I could send at 25c per piece. I have also some of the 1924 Schillings (larger seize),which have been withdrawn from circulation and are already scarce.These would cost 50c each.

Hoping to hear soon from you again,I am,dear Sir,

Very truly Yours

EDGAR VILNAI

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Shipment, on approval:

Austrian Iron merit Cross of 1916	$ .1o
ditto, with the crown	.12
" Kaiser Karl Cross for combattants	.15
" Military Service Cross (VI), two kinds, at 1oc each	.2o
" 1912/13 Bosnia annexion cross	.1o
" Jubiläee medal of 1898	.15
German decoration for wounded, Ist class	.1o
Postage	.o8
Total	$1.oo

September 5th, 1925

Mr. Edgar Vilnai
Sebastianplatz 7
Wien III

Dear Sir:

Your favour of August 3rd came to hand while I was away on vacation.

Although I had most of the decorations you sent over, as the amount is small, I am enclosing a dollar bill, the amount which you asked for them.

We are not interested in paper money. A few years ago a number of collectors in the States were interested in this series, but I think that their enthusiasm has now died down.

I have nearly all of the Austrian decorations in the various classes, but lack the following:

Last Class, Maria Theresa Order
1st Class, Iron Cross Order
Any of the St.Stephen Order

If you can obtain any of these cheaply, please let me know the price, but do not send them over without hearing further from me.

Although the Austrian Auxiliary War Cross, of which you sent a photograph, is very interesting, we do not care for it especially, as we prefer the Orders which were actually issued.

We can get through the money brokers here, all of the new coinage. If you have any decorations of other countries, however, please let me know the prices, and I will then inform you whether or not we desire them.

Very truly yours,

Encs.

Curator

RECEIPT FOR REGISTERED ARTICLE NO. 198830

10 *fee paid.* .... *class postage paid.* .... , 192
(Date.)

From [illegible]

[illegible]

Addressed to [illegible]

[illegible] Austria

Accepting employee will place initials in spaces applicable to indicate indorsements, etc.

Return receipt desired .... *Special delivery* ....

Delivery restricted { *To addressee in person* .... / *To addressee or order* .... }

Postmaster, per [illegible]

POSTMARK

NEW YORK (193) N.Y. SEP 8 1925

EDGAR VILNAI
WIEN, III., SEBASTIANPLATZ 7
BÜRO: III., VEITHGASSE 11
(RENNWEG 7)

ÖSTERR. POSTSCHECKKONTO NR. 185.883
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WIEN, September, 3oth 5. 192

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway btw. 155 & 156 th St.,
New York City, U. S. A.

Daer Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favour of 5th inst. and your remittance of $1.oo, which settles my shipment of August 3rd.

I am glad to say that I can furnish you with the variours rare Austrian decorations you are in need of. I beg to offer same as follows:

Maria Theresia Order,
1st Class (Grand Cross), silver gilt.....$ 4o.oo
Ribbon for Grand Cross..... 1o.oo
Grand Cross - Breast Star, silver gilt..... 8o.oo

St. Stephen Order,
Grand Cross, silver gilt.....$ 45.oo
Ribbon..... 1o.oo
Grand Cross - Breast star, silver gilt..... 75.oo
St. Stephen Order, Cammanders Cross (IInd Class) 28.oo
Ribbon for IInd Class Order,..... 2.oo
St. Stephen Order, Knight Cross (IIIrd Class).. 24.oo
Ribbon for IIIrd Class..... 1.oo
The Knight Cross is also made from silver and gilt.

Iron Crown Order,
Available Grand Cross, ribbon, and Grand Cross Star, at the same prices as Maria Theresia Order; these are also silver, gilt.

You asked about the Iron Cross Order, Ist Class, but I am supposing you need the Iron Crown and offered this. Also, I have all classes of the Bulgarian Merit Cross for Military Merit, the Serbian Takowo Order etc. and would be glad to offer these, if interested. The Turkish Iron Half Moon (Bravery decoration) I can offer at $3.oo only.

I request you to remit the amount of your order to the Anglo-Austrian Bank Ltd., Vienna, or any other Vienna firma with the charging, the amount to pay to me as soon as the goods ordered are mailed and the post-office receipt is submitted to the bank. If wanted, I could send you a cetri-

ficate with every of the orders stating that these are original and correct.

Hoping to hear soon from you, I am, dear Sir,

Very truly Yours

EDGAR VILNAI